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Letter from new DB Editor-in-Chief

At the onset of 2014, I am honored to assume the position of Editor-in-Chief of *Developmental Biology*, the official journal of the Society for Developmental Biology, and published by Elsevier. First and foremost, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the out-going Editor-in-Chief, Robb Krumlauf, for his wonderful leadership and outstanding contributions to the journal over the past nine years. Having served as an editor under his guidance, I have learned much from his excellent example and hope to continue on the positive trajectory he has put in place. In dealing with authors and editors alike, he handles manuscripts with fairness, patience, dedication and attention to detail. I also thank my fellow editors for their commitment and devotion to the journal and look forward to continuing interactions with them on the editorial board. *Developmental Biology* is run entirely by active scientists and for scientists, and we thank them for dedicating their valuable time and energy to efficient operation of our society's Journal.

The Journal *Developmental Biology* has had a long and illustrious history. Much of the fundamental work in the field has been published on its pages. Indeed my devotion to the Journal started over 30 years ago when my primary thesis work was published in DB. It is our goal to make the journal one of the preeminent, most widely read, and respected journal in the field of developmental biology, and a place that melds classical developmental studies with modern technological advances in the genomic and post-genomic era.

The New Year brings new opportunities and new challenges. For today's scientist, the large role of online and open access publishing has changed the way we read, reference and relate to the literature. This has been accompanied by innovations in

publishing that make papers interactive and give authors the opportunity to add audiolinks describing their own work in their own words. Here at *Developmental Biology*, we view these innovations as an exciting opportunity to enhance the quality of the Journal and look forward to exploring new technologies to enhance both the review process and the way published papers are accessed in the journal. My future goals are to improve and simplify the review process, decrease the time to making editorial decisions and the number of rounds of revisions, and to increase interactions between the readership and journal.

The success of *Developmental Biology* rests on the quality of the work that has published for the past 55 years, as well as the special relationship between the journal and the Society for Developmental Biology. Our authors are treated in the same fashion that we hope to be treated when submitting our own work for publication. During my three-year appointment as Editor-in-Chief, I will strive to improve the journal, treat manuscripts fairly and quickly, and serve our readership to the best of my ability. Our goal is to promote the strongest possible ties between *Developmental Biology*, the Society for Developmental Biology, and the developmental biology community as a whole.

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